

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a threonine importer, wherein said DNA molecule consists of nucleotides 1,772 to 3,025 of SEQ. ID. No. 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the yield of threonine produced by a threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain comprising

(a) inactivating an endogeneous threonine importer gene of the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain, wherein the threonine importer gene comprises a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772<sup>nd</sup> base to the 3,025<sup>th</sup> base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1,

(b) culturing the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain of step (a) under suitable conditions, and thereby increasing the yield of threonine produced by the threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain in a fermentation medium.

3. (Currently Amended) A threonine-producing *Corynebacterium* strain, comprising an inactivated endogeneous threonine importer gene, said threonine importer gene comprising a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772<sup>nd</sup> base to the 3,025<sup>th</sup> base among DNA sequences with the SEQ ID NO: 1.

~~prepared by the method as set forth in claim 2.~~

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the *Corynebacterium* strain is a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain.